



# Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC57

Site Name: Bond Street

Prehistoric ☐

Other name(s) London Coffee House, Captain Wells' House

Historic ☒

Brief Description:

late 18th century brick rowhouses/taverns, early 19th century brewery, mid-19th century warehouse

Unknown ☐

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 39.2756 Longitude -76.5935

Elevation m Site slope 0-5%

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Maryland Archeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code Ub

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site ☒

Underwater site ☐

Ethnobotany profile available ☐ Maritime site ☐

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Northwest Branch of Patap

#### Saltwater

Ocean ☐

Estuary/tidal river ☒

Tidewater/marsh ☐

Minimum distance to water is 76 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river ☐

Swamp ☐

Lake or pond ☐

Spring ☐

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site ☐

Woodland site ☐

Archaic site ☐

MD Adena ☐

Early archaic ☐

Early woodland ☐

Middle archaic ☐

Mid. woodland ☐

Late archaic ☐

Late woodland ☐

Unknown prehistoric context ☐

Contact period site ☐

ca. 1820 - 1860 ☐

ca. 1630 - 1675 ☐

ca. 1860 - 1900 ☐

ca. 1675 - 1720 ☐

ca. 1900 - 1930 ☐

ca. 1720 - 1780 ☐

Post 1930 ☐

ca. 1780 - 1820 ☐

Unknown historic context ☐

Unknown context ☐

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American ☐

Asian American ☐

African American ☐

Unknown ☐

Anglo-American ☐

Other ☐

Hispanic ☐

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

## Site Function Contextual Data:

### Prehistoric

Multi-component ☐

Misc. ceremonial ☐

Village ☐

Rock art ☐

Hamlet ☐

Shell midden ☐

Base camp ☐

STU/lithic scatter ☐

Rockshelter/cave ☐

Quarry/extraction ☐

Earthen mound ☐

Fish weir ☐

Cairn ☐

Production area ☐

Burial area ☐

Unknown ☐

Other context ☐

### Historic

Urban/Rural? Urban ☐

#### Domestic

Homestead ☐

Farmstead ☐

Mansion ☐

Plantation ☐

Row/townhome ☐

Cellar ☐

Privy ☐

#### Industrial

Mining-related ☐

Quarry-related ☐

Mill ☐

Black/metalsmith ☐

Furnace/forge ☐

Other ☒ brewery

#### Transportation

Canal-related ☐

Road/railroad ☐

Wharf/landing ☐

Maritime-related ☐

Bridge ☐

Ford ☐

#### Educational

#### Commercial

Trading post ☐

Store ☐

Tavern/inn ☐

#### Military

Battlefield ☐

Fortification ☐

Encampment ☐

#### Townsite

#### Religious

Church/mtg house ☐

Ch support bldg ☐

#### Burial area

Cemetery ☐

Sepulchre ☐

Isolated burial ☐

Bldg or foundation ☒

Possible Structure ☐

Post-in-ground ☐

Frame-built ☐

Masonry ☒

Other structure ☐

#### Slave related

#### Non-domestic agri

#### Recreational

Midden/dump ☒

Artifact scatter ☐

Spring or well ☒

Unknown ☐

Other context ☒

warehouse, coffee house, inns/taverns

## Interpretive Sampling Data:

### Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken ☐

Flotation samples taken ☐

Other samples taken ☐

### Historic context samples

Soil samples taken ☐

Flotation samples taken ☐

Other samples taken ☐



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## Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types	
Clovis	<input type="text"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="text"/>
Palmer	<input type="text"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="text"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="text"/>
Le Croy	<input type="text"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="text"/>
Guilford	<input type="text"/>
Brewerton	<input type="text"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="text"/>
Koens-Crispin	<input type="text"/>
Perkiomen	<input type="text"/>
Susquehanna	<input type="text"/>
Vernon	<input type="text"/>
Piscataway	<input type="text"/>
Calvert	<input type="text"/>
Selby Bay	<input type="text"/>
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="text"/>
Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="text"/>
Madison/Potomac	<input type="text"/>
Levanna	<input type="text"/>

### Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="text"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="text"/>	Shepard	<input type="text"/>	Keyser	<input type="text"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="text"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="text"/>	Townsend	<input type="text"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="text"/>
Selden Island	<input type="text"/>	Watson	<input type="text"/>	Minguannan	<input type="text"/>	Monongahela	<input type="text"/>
Accokeek	<input type="text"/>	Mockley	<input type="text"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="text"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="text"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="text"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="text"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="text"/>		
Vinette	<input type="text"/>	Page	<input type="text"/>	Moyaone	<input type="text"/>		
				Potomac Cr	<input type="text"/>		

### Historic Sherd Types

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="text"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="text"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
Astbury	<input type="text"/>	Jackfield	<input type="text"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="text"/>	English Brown	<input type="text"/>
Borderware	<input type="text"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="text"/>	Whiteware	<input type="text"/>	Eng Dry-bodie	<input type="text"/>
Buckley	<input type="text"/>	North Devon	<input type="text"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<input type="text"/>	Nottingham	<input type="text"/>
Creamware	<input type="text"/>	Pearlware	<input type="text"/>			Rhenish	<input type="text"/>
	2		2			Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="text"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts	
Flaked stone	<input type="text"/>
Ground stone	<input type="text"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="text"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="text"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="text"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="text"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="text"/>
Other fired clay	<input type="text"/>
Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Modified faunal	<input type="text"/>
Unmod faunal	<input type="text"/>
Oyster shell	<input type="text"/>
Floral material	<input type="text"/>
Uncommon Obj.	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

### Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="text"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="text"/>
Midden	<input type="text"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="text"/>
Shell midden	<input type="text"/>	Ossuary	<input type="text"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="text"/>		

### Lithic Material

Jasper	<input type="text"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="text"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="text"/>
Chert	<input type="text"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="text"/>	European flint	<input type="text"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="text"/>	Ironstone	<input type="text"/>	Basalt	<input type="text"/>
Quartz	<input type="text"/>	Argilite	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
Quartzite	<input type="text"/>	Steatite	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="text"/>		

☒ Dated features present at site

numerous historic features containing diagnostic historic artifacts

Historic Artifacts	
Pottery (all)	<input type="text"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="text"/>
Architectural	<input type="text"/>
Furniture	<input type="text"/>
Arms	<input type="text"/>
Clothing	<input type="text"/>
Personal items	<input type="text"/>
Tobacco related	<input type="text"/>
Activity item(s)	<input type="text"/>
Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Faunal material	<input type="text"/>
Misc. kitchen	<input type="text"/>
Floral material	<input type="text"/>
Misc.	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

### Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="text"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
Const feature	<input checked="" type="text"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="text"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="text"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="text"/>	oven	<input type="text"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input checked="" type="text"/>	Earthworks	<input type="text"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input checked="" type="text"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="text"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="text"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="text"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="text"/>				

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:	<input type="text"/>	+/-	<input type="text"/>	years BP	Reliability	Sample 2:	<input type="text"/>	+/-	<input type="text"/>	years BP	Reliability	Sample 3:	<input type="text"/>	+/-	<input type="text"/>	years BP	Reliability
Sample 4:	<input type="text"/>	+/-	<input type="text"/>	years BP	Reliability	Sample 5:	<input type="text"/>	+/-	<input type="text"/>	years BP	Reliability	Sample 6:	<input type="text"/>	+/-	<input type="text"/>	years BP	Reliability
Sample 7:	<input type="text"/>	+/-	<input type="text"/>	years BP	Reliability	Sample 8:	<input type="text"/>	+/-	<input type="text"/>	years BP	Reliability	Sample 9:	<input type="text"/>	+/-	<input type="text"/>	years BP	Reliability

☐ Additional radiocarbon results available



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## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC (Accession # 1985.016.004)

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Bond Street Site (18BC57), also known as the "London Coffee House" or the "Captain Wells' House", is a complex of late 18th century brick rowhouses and taverns, as well as an early 19th century brewery and mid-19th century warehouse in downtown Baltimore. The site is situated at 854-856 South Bond Street and 1532-1534 Thames Street (the northwest corner of South Bond and Thames Streets) within the National Register Historic District of the Fells Point section of Baltimore. It lies near the waterfront of the northwest branch of the Patapsco River, just across Thames street from the wharves that have existed there since the early 18th century. Most of the area surrounding the site is heavily developed. Soils mapped for the area are classified as "Urban Land" meaning that 80% of the surface is covered either by buildings or by impervious surfaces such as asphalt or concrete.

Historic documents indicate the lot at the corner of South Bond and Thames Streets (the location of 18BC57) was first improved in the late 18th century. There are two extant buildings on the site today. One fronts on Thames Street (1532-1534 Thames/Lot 18) and dates to the late 18th century. This building has been erroneously called the George Wells House. However, the lot was never owned or occupied by Wells. The building was actually used as a lumberyard in the late 18th century, and a later building on the site may have been used as an inn in the early 19th century. George Wells was associated with the adjacent Bond Street properties.

The other extant building is located at 854 South Bond Street and is the London Coffeehouse, which was owned and occupied by George Wells in the late 18th century. In 1771, John Cattell, a mariner, purchased the lease on Lots 17 and 18 and retired from marine life to become a merchant. Cattell subdivided the property and sold the 854 South Bond Street lot to a John Stevenson in July of 1774. The deed mentioned a house that he had recently built on the lot. It also mentions that the lot and "house" constructed upon it had been operated as the "London Coffee House" under a lease to Thomas Elliot.

A coffeehouse of the early colonies was modeled after the famed coffeehouses of London, 2,000 of which served city-dwellers at all levels of society by 1715. London coffeehouses were a hub of society, where men gathered to hear the news, discuss ideas, debate politics, conduct business, and socialize over an inexpensive cup of coffee. Early American coffee houses were a more practical adaptation, selling beer, ale, wine, liquor, lemonade, and chocolate in addition to coffee (which first arrived in the colonies around 1660). Some of these institutions were coffeehouses in name only and functioned as taverns, offering lodging and meals as well as beverages. Typically they were located near the harbor of port cities. Even after the coffeehouse in Fells Point had probably ceased operation, 854 Bond Street was still described as a coffeehouse in subsequent deeds.

On 10 March, 1779, Stephenson sold the London Coffee House to Captain George Wells (a Baltimore shipwright) for £3,000 common money plus rent. Wells constructed a new house at 856 Bond Street circa 1779. This structure was situated between the two standing structures (854 Bond and 1532-1534 Thames) and was attached to both. He did not live in the structure, but rented it out as an investment. His son, also named George Wells, lived in the London Coffee House. After Captain Wells' death, the properties were leased out to various commercial and residential tenants by his heirs. The area has been mixed residential and commercial use since the late 18th century. By the middle of the 19th century, a number of additions to buildings and outbuildings were located in the yard to the west of the standing structures.

The site was subjected to archeological work in 1984 as part of a broader Fells Point survey project funded by MHT. No formal report was written detailing this archeological work, but a 2001 study went back and attempted to reconstruct the fieldwork from written field records, drawings, and photographs archived at the Maryland Archeological Conservation (MAC) Laboratory, as well as maps and drawings in MHT's possession.

The archeological investigation, conducted in October of 1984, concentrated on the use of the rear yard west of the standing structures. Before beginning excavation, a grid that tied into the city's survey system and used city datum points was established over the site. The grid used 18 m (50 ft) square blocks subdivided into 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) units.

Working from copies of field records, brief reports by the principal investigator, and newspaper articles, it was determined that one backhoe trench and 13 Gradall trenches were excavated. The backhoe trench, running north-south across the site, was used to identify the stratigraphic sequence and to determine the depth of the 18th and early 19th century deposits. The Gradall removed fill from the cellar of 856 South Bond Street and cleared from 61-152 cm (2-5 ft) of overburden from the yard area. Approximately 22% of the total yard area was graded. After the yard was graded, six test units were excavated using trowel and hardware cloth screens. Four units were situated west of 856 Bond Street and two were west of 854, including one in a hearth. The test units varied in size from full 1.524 X 1.524 m units to 76.2 X 76.2 cm (2.5 X 2.5 ft) quarter units. Approximately 256 m (840 ft) of trench walls were profiled, which revealed a number of architectural features and structural foundations.

The backhoe trench revealed the brick walls and brick-paved floor of an early building directly west of 1532-1534 Thames Street. This early building appears on historic maps as a brewery and dwelling. It was built before 1852 and was destroyed between 1880 and 1890. Later, a Gradall trench uncovered about three quarters of the building, including a large hearth. The hearth was excavated and a plan drawing was made.

The subsurface remains of the foundation and cellar of a wing that extended west from the rear of 854 Bond Street were also uncovered in a Gradall trench. A large hearth with a pintle for a crane and a brick oven were discovered along west wall of the cellar. The cellar floor was paved in stone. Three quarter-sized units were excavated in this area to further define these architectural features. The edge of the fireplace and the stone floor were located in the northeast quarter of one unit. Plan drawings were made of the excavation, and profile drawings were made of the oven.

Foundations of the house at 856 Bond Street and foundations of rear additions to the house were also uncovered. In the cellar of 856 Bond, two sets of fireplace footers were located, and a midden covered the dirt floor. West of the main house cellar were the foundations of additions to the house. One of these additions may have been the kitchen mentioned in a 1787 deed transferring the property from Captain Wells' son George (Jr.) to a Joseph Harrison.

Two other features that were not architectural in nature were found in the site. These were a mid 19th century trash pit and a brick-lined well or cistern containing early 20th century fill. Both of these were located west of 856 Bond Street. The location of the mid 19th century trash pit is uncertain. The feature described as a well or cistern may have actually been a privy mentioned in late 19th and early 20th century deeds. A quarter-sized unit was excavated in the privy. The artifacts near the top were late 19th to early 20th century and included canning jar glass and a crown bottle cap. Artifacts from a layer approximately 150-165 cm below their elevation point included whiteware, yellowware, blue shell-edged pearlware, and kaolin pipe stem fragments, which



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suggest a slightly earlier date for the lower layers of fill.

A test unit excavated west of the backhoe trench and about 21.3 m (70 ft) directly west of the northwest corner of 854 Bond Street. This unit contained large stones, a wood plank, nails and plaster fragments, and faunal material. Dateable artifacts included creamware and pearlware, dating the deposit after 1780. This deposit may be associated with an early bulkhead or wharf, as it is located very close to the original shoreline of the Patapsco in a layer of very dark soil similar to harbor bottom soil.

Earlier shorelines were identified in trench profiles. The lots on Bond Street did not extend as far west in the 18th century as they currently do. They shoreline was altered to create more land by introducing fill in later decades.

No catalog of artifacts from the 1984 excavations is available. However, creamware, pearlware, whiteware, wine bottles, mason jar glass, and clay pipes were recovered.

Intact features and diagnostic historic artifacts were recovered during the course of the 1984 excavations. While most of the site had been excavated and recorded following the 1984 project, portions of it remained intact and un-investigated. Historic documentation shows that this site has been used for both domestic and commercial purposes. The kinds of archeological resources that might be found include evidence of such commercial ventures as a ship chandlery, and inn/hotel, and a machinery and iron works. Additional work is warranted should the site become threatened by future development.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97001185